



DENISE MERRILL

SECRETARY OF THE STATE
CONNECTICUT

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SECRETARY MERRILL JOINS CONNECTICUT IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COALITION TO HONOR IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT DR. DAISY COCO DE
FILIPPIS, AN IMMIGRANT FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, GIVES KEYNOTE
ADDRESS FOR 15TH ANNUAL IMMIGRANT DAY CEREMONY

HARTFORD: Secretary of the State Denise Merrill today joined the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (CIRC) in hosting the 15th annual “Immigrant Day” ceremony at the State Capitol in Hartford. Immigrant Day honors immigrants from Connecticut, and celebrates their long lasting contributions to their communities and professions. This year’s ceremony honored 16 immigrants originally from 14 different countries who live in Connecticut. A complete list of honorees can be found at the end of this news release.



“It is such an honor to pay tribute to hard working citizens who contribute so much to our communities who in some cases overcame very difficult circumstances to come to America, just like my family did 100 years ago,” said Secretary Merrill. “Our strength as a Democracy comes from our diversity and the fact that anyone – from anywhere in the world – can succeed in this country if you work hard enough. Each of those honored on Immigrant Day have not only done well for themselves and their families, but they have also had a lasting impact in their community. Our entire state has benefitted from their talent and tireless efforts.”

The keynote speaker for the 2012 Immigrant Day Ceremony was Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis, President of Naugatuck Valley Community College and an immigrant from the Dominican Republic. Laurie Perez of FOX 61 TV News in Hartford, a political reporter and host of “The Real Story,” a weekly news analysis program, herself the daughter of immigrants from Guam, served as Master of ceremonies for the event.

Immigrant Day is sponsored by the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (CIRC) and the Secretary of the State’s Office. CIRC is an association of ethnic and social service organizations working to promote the rights and opportunities of immigrants and refugees in Connecticut, and to foster their civic participation.

April 23, 2012 – 15th Annual Immigrant Day Honorees

	<u>Country of Origin</u>	<u>CT Residence</u>
<u>Keynote Speaker</u>		
Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis	Dominican Republic	
<u>Honorees</u>		
Carol Johnson	Jamaica	Bloomfield
Rasy Mar	Somalia	Bristol
Jama Ahmed	Somalia	Hartford
Dr. Yusra Anis- Anwar	Pakistan	South Windsor
Hadar Lubin, MD	Israel	Oxford
Rosa Browne	Panama	Middletown
Cao Trieu	Vietnam	Manchester
Tiffany Nguyen	Vietnam	Berlin
Mui-Mui Hin-McCormick	Laos	Southington
Krystian Tkaczewki (student)	Poland	West Hartford
Ana Maria Badash	Republic of Honduras	Stamford
Nicholaos K. Aivalis	Greece	Stamford
Jane Kitiny	Kenya	New Haven
Estela Morales	Mexico	Hartford
Suresh Sharma	India	Glastonbury
Danielle Carter (student)	Barbados	West Hartford